

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 9, with the following paragraph:

--The central section 12 of the sleeve is barrel-shaped and terminates at a lower generally concave section 16 which provides another peripheral gripping member 31 shown in Fig. 5 on the internal surface of the sleeve. The central section 12 of the flexible sleeve is bowed outwardly has a first girth greater than a second girth defined by the concave sections 15 and 16, as shown in Figures 1 and 4. [[and]] Thus, the central section 12 is not in contact with the beverage container except when depressed by the grip of the user. The region between the peripheral gripping members is not in communication with the external environment when a container is located in the insulating receptacle thereby aiding in maintaining the container temperature over an extended period.--